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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of

Peter GEISTLICH et al.

Serial No.: 09/925,728

Filed: August 10, 2001

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) Examiner: B. Pellegrino
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) Group Art Unit: 3738

For: METHOD FOR PROMOTING REGENERATION OF SURFACE CARTILAGE IN A
DAMAGED JOINT USING MULTI-LAYER COVERING

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

APR 17 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 15, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of promoting regeneration of surface cartilage of a joint, comprising:

- covering an area of damaged cartilage of a joint to be treated with a patch comprised of a multi-layer sheet of collagen membrane material, wherein said multi-layer sheet of collagen membrane material is comprised of at least one barrier layer which acts as a barrier to inhibit passage of cells therethrough, wherein said sheet of collagen membrane material further comprises a matrix layer predominantly of collagen II having an open sponge-like texture;

- fixing the patch over said area with the at least one said barrier layer oriented away from the damaged area, wherein said patch is fixed over the damaged area without application of a separate hemostatic barrier layer in said area; and

- allowing said area to regenerate cartilage.